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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for detecting an early signaling event in an inflammatory response cascade in a patient comprising:

a) contacting a biological sample obtained from a patient known to have or suspected of having been exposed to an inflammatory stimulus with a CD163 capture antibody to form a CD163-antibody complex;

b) contacting the CD163-antibody complex with a CD163 detection antibody;

c) detecting soluble CD163 levels in the biological sample; and

d) determining whether there is a detectable elevation in the level of soluble CD163 within 1 to 12 hours of exposure to the inflammatory stimulus indicative of an early signaling event in the inflammatory response cascade in the patient.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the CD163 capture antibody is MAC2-158 or MAC2-48.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the biological sample is human plasma.

Claims 4-10 (canceled).